

Application For an RFI Service dog for Autism

STEP ONE: Please fill out all forms, questionnaires and charts.

RFI recognizes that demand for autism service dogs is high and availability is limited. Unfortunately due to the demand, RFI must qualify applicant, please apply as early as possible.

Please print legibly

Applicant child's name: _____ DOB _____ gender _____

Primary caregiver name: _____ Relationship to the child _____

Secondary caregiver name _____ Relationship to the child _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Does secondary caregiver live with primary caregiver? __yes__ no

Secondary caregiver residence if other than above:

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Child's school: _____ grade _____ N/A _____

Have you owned a pet in the last 10 yrs? _____ yes _____ no Type _____
#years owned _____

More than one pet in the last 10 yrs? Please list:

Do you currently have pets in the home?

__yes__ no __type__ _____ number _____

If you currently own a dog, what is the breed _____ and age: _____

If you owned a dog but no longer do, please explain the reason you no longer own a dog:

Do you live in a __house__ apartment __condo__ town house _____ other

What is the approximate square footage of your residence? _____ sq ft

How many bedrooms? _____ and the number of rooms for play or recreation? _____

Do you have a yard? __yes__no Approximate sq ft _____sq ft

Is your yard securely fenced? __yes__no Height of the fence _____ft

How many individuals live full time at your residence? _____

Name, age, and relationship to primary caregiver:

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Others who may stay overnight for visits:

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Does the child have visitations with relatives without primary caregiver(s) present?

__yes__no

If yes, explain **who?** _____

how often? _____ **how long?** _____

Does the (applicant) child attend school? __yes__no If no, why not? _____

Does the (applicant) child have a one-on-one teacher? __yes__ no, or other _____

If your child *will* attend school, what calendar year will the child attend school? Year 201_____

If your child attends school what month does school start and end for your child?

Do they attend summer school? _____

The name of the school the child currently attends: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Extension _____

Is your child or *will* your child be mainstreamed at school, attend special education classes, or some other program? Please explain: _____

Are you aware of any service dogs working in the school your child attends or will attend?
__yes__no If yes, what is the nature of the dog's service? _____

Does primary caregiver work outside the home? _____

Do you vacation as a family? __yes__no

What does your family do for recreation? _____

Does your special needs child attend? _____yes_____no Participate? _____yes_____no

Can you afford an average of \$150 per month (yearly shots, hygiene, food, etc) to support a service dog?
__yes__no

Where will the service dog sleep?

Where will the service dog rest?

Where would you exercise the service dog?

when? _____

how? _____

What are the major challenges you experience as a primary caregiver of a special needs child?

The challenges other family members experience?

How will a service dog change your life and that of other family members?

Briefly, in what way do you think a service dog might enhance the life of your special needs child?

(Primary caregiver) Briefly, what are your expectations?

(Secondary caregiver) What are your expectations?

What concerns/reservations do you have with respect to owning a service dog?

Is there anything we have not asked that you feel is important for us to know about you, your special needs child, or your family? __yes__no

Before you continue with the final application it's important that you understand the time and investment required. Having an RFI service dog will require a commitment by both parents to provide more than food and shelter. Prior to receiving the dog RFI will require a 10 day orientation class that must be attended.

Will this be possible:

Yes ___ No ___

Waverly, IA _____ or Senatobia, MS _____

The first 3 months after placement is a time of major adjustment for the dog, you, your child and the rest of the family, and as such, RFI wants to be certain that the family is fully prepared for the personal investment and hard work required. It's fun and exciting too, but there is much to be done initially in preparation and during the first few months after the placement.

Will you be available for follow-up meetings?

Yes ___ No ___

Waverly, IA _____ or Senatobia, MS _____

As a 501c3 non-profit organization RFI does not require any cost for receiving a service dog, thus our production is directly related to the contributions that have been received. On behalf of each accepted applicant, RFI will build a recipient donor page. This will have a goal of \$7500 and be placed on the RFI website as a way to encourage donations to the organization. RFI appreciates any involvement in achieving this goal, but does not deny or place dogs according to the amount raised. Many contributions are given to RFI through this platform, and are all placed within RFI's general program services contributions account. Donations are not specifically allocated to any specific recipient or do they constitute a purchase of a dog.

Often the expectation of the parent of a child with autism seeking a service dog is that the service dog will perform immediate miracles, and being a uniquely trained dog means the dog is fundamentally different than other dogs, a sort of "robot" dog that responds the instant you give a command; never makes a mistake; never sulks or barks, and never has an off day. Highly trained dogs are still dogs that have basic needs that must be met to be well-balanced and perform consistently. A well balanced dog is calm, friendly, and content. To a great extent a dog's mood, performance and quality of companionship depends on his/her environment, the amount of exercise, discipline and affection given by the new owner.

I understand and accept the responsibility, financial investment, and care required of owning a (service) dog. All family members will respect the basic needs of the dog for proper diet, shelter, veterinary care, exercise, attention, and rest. If, at any time, I, or members of my immediate family, cannot meet the requirements of proper care, I understand the service dog is to be returned to Retrieving Freedom, Inc. I further agree to follow RFI instruction regarding any required reading, training, orientation classes and the transition and integration process of the service dog into our home.

Signed _____ Date _____

Full name of primary child caregiver/ dog handler

Primary caregiver name: _____

Primary caregiver address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Child's Name _____ DOB: _____

Step Two:

Primary Caregiver: _____

(Print)

Secondary Caregiver: _____

(Print)

Recipient Child: _____

(Print)

1) Diagnosis requirement

- a. A DSMV official diagnosis of Autism or PDDNOS obtain from a credible psychiatrist trained in diagnosing Autism spectrum disorders
- b. A functional assessment from that same provider that suggest the candidate can meet the level of physical and mental functioning to benefit from a service dog

Provide statements of child's condition, difficulties, and needs from extended family members, one of the child's current service providers, associates or friends of the family, teacher or school official. A minimum of 3 concise statements from three different sources describing the child's major disabilities are required. One of which must come from the school that the child attends or will be attending.

We understand that contributions are not payment for a service dog, nor a guarantee our child will receive a service dog. While contributions may be given to RFI in the direction of a particular child, we understand those funds do not constitute a purchase. All the funds donated to the RFI organization are used to the best purpose determined by the Board of Directors.

If at any time during during team training, the two week transitional phase or the week of tether training, a RFI representative determines the caregiver, caregiver's partner or family is unsuitable to continue placement of a (service) dog, RFI may exercise its right as stated above to withdraw the service dog without monetary reimbursement to any party.

We understand that due to the increase in cases nationwide that the demand for service dogs for children with Autism far outweighs the supply. Not everyone that applies will be able to receive a service dog, and RFI will place dogs to the best of their ability with the applicants that show the greatest need of a trained service dog.

Official DSMV Diagnosis of child: _____

Name of Credible Psychiatrist trained in diagnosing autism who made the diagnosis:

_____ Phone Number: _____

Can RFI contact above: _____

Caregiver/ Parent _____ Date: _____

Caregiver/Parent _____ Date: _____

Step Three:

Mail the printed application form, questioner, all documents including the diagnosis report and functional assessment along with a non-refundable \$40 application fee to:

Following the receipt of this application and the above attachments, an RFI representative will be in contact with you to set up a phone consultation.

For questions or to email the Application please send to: kyle@retrievingfreedom.org

Mail Application to:

Iowa Location

Retrieving Freedom, Inc.

Attn: Kyle

1152 230th St

Waverly, IA 50677

Mississippi Location

Retrieving Freedom, Inc.

Attn: Kyle

PO Box 1305

Olive Branch, MS 38654

For office use:

Application received on: _____ date